Read Nov. 1854
C. H. M.

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To the Society of Inquiry of the
Princeton Theological Seminary.

Dear Brethren,

The Evangelical Christian young men of N.Y., gathered into its Young Mens Association, having obtained the like precious faith with you, wish you grace, mercy, & peace, from God the Father & our Lord Jesus Christ. —

We may bless God with one voice, that in his infinite mercy your Society has been distilling its blessed influences thro so long a period as forty years; that thro forty years the fire of devotion has not died out upon its altar; that the voice of prayer has not ceased to ascend like a perpetual incense before the throne of His heavenly grace —

Forty years of prayer should have made a Society "strong in the Lord & in the power of His might;" the prayers of forty years cannot have been in vain; "shall not God avenge His own elect that cry unto Him day & night, tho He bear long with them; I tell you that He will avenge them speedily" —

Our own Society is young in years & is still in the feebleness of its untried childhood,

without experience from which to shape its
course thro' the future, with inadequate
moneyed resources, yet with high hopes
& we trust with strong faith & holy zeal —

In answer to your inquiries I send
you our last report, &c, which it is thought
contains all the information sought —

The society arises out of a want,
deeply felt, of Christian society & companion-
ship for young men, strangers in the city, &
far from the restraining influences of parent
& the ~~family~~ family circle. —

That we have in a measure supplied
this want, we can abundantly prove —

A young man coming to our city, may
find in our members, companions, advisers, warm
friends, whose influence will be in the right direc-
tion: — he may find in our library & reading room,
a good supply of literature, from which whatever
is hurtful has been carefully sifted; he may find
in our prayer meetings, bible classes, lectures,
sermons, &c the means of improving himself,
both as to his moral & as to his intellectual nature —

The second great good which we accom-
plish, is the union of Christians of different
denominations in one communion & fellowship,
& the melting down of those prejudices which
have too long separated us —

I have been frequent in my attend-

ance on the weekly prayermeetings, & in the addresses & prayers made I have never heard anything that gave offence: indeed the last source from which we apprehend danger is from a sectarian spirit —

There are in it is thought nearly 1800 names on our list: if these may be trained up in the spirit & habit of fraternal union, they must, when in time they become the elders & leaders of the churches, exercise a very great influence. —

The young men are acquiring the habit of active coöperation in schemes of christian usefulness; & have here a sphere in which youthful modesty need not keep them in the back ground or deter them from effort —

The various Associations in the world keep up a system of correspondence with each other, which is a source of great pleasure & profit to each — During the last week I have rec^d^ letters from Dublin, Ireland & from San Francisco, Cal., all breathing the same fraternal spirit —

At a Convention of the Ass^ns^ of the U.S. & British Provinces, held at Buffalo in June last, it was reported that the Ass^ns^ in the world numbered 250: — in the U.S. there were 35, and the aggregate membership in these 35 was 15000.

The assns in U.S. are increasing in numbers & in membership with great rapidity — There are three associations among the gold diggings of Australia; there is one at Constantinople, one at Beyrout, one in Algiers (possibly within the ancient bishopric of St Augustine) — An officer of the Swedish army has gone home from Geneva to establish the institution in his own land — There are 21 in the Swiss cantons, four at least in British America, — 38 in France, 100 in Germany, comprising 8000 members, & 4 in Holland — By writing to Wm Chauncey Langdon Esq, Secy of Y. Ms association in Washington, Dist. Columbia, you could obtain a copy of the Report of the Buffalo convention, which is full of interest & information — You will perceive that this letter is written in great haste. It will afford me great pleasure to lay before the monthly meeting of our society, your letter of inquiry, written in such a cordial spirit — May I ask for copies of any printed report, or document published by your society — Let us have an interest in your prayers, that our efforts & unite men of different sects may be successful, & that the associations of the U.S. may be united in spirit & effort, & aid greatly in hastening that day when earth shall re-echo the song of the angels, & then shall indeed be "Peace on earth & good will towards men" —

Yours in Christian fellowship

Robert McCartee Jr Cor Secy

N.Y.Y.Ms Christian assn